

Study Abroad Handbook for Postgraduate students

Department of Psychology

How to Apply

Grade requirement:

You are expected to have a GPA of 3.0, a credit or grade B average or equivalent in a related degree.

English requirements:

If you are a non-native English language speaker, our English requirements are IELTS 6.5 (with at least 6.0 in writing and 5.5 in the other elements); Pearson PTE Academic 58 overall with at least 50 in writing and 42 in equivalent IELTS elements, CEFR B2-C1 or equivalent.

Students who have IELTS 6.0 (with at least 5.5 in each element) or Pearson PTE Academic 50 overall (with at least 42 in each element) can take part in the 4 week [English for Academic Purposes \(EAP\)](#) course instead of retaking their tests.

IELTS and Pearson certificates are valid for 2 years from the test date and your certificate will need to be valid on the start date of your studies at Lancaster.

If you are a non-native English speaker studying at an English speaking university, please include a copy of the Secure English Language Test (SELT) certificate e.g. IELTS, Pearson or TOEFL you submitted when you applied to your home University/College.

Students coming for more than 6 months

We will accept the most recent SELT according to the English Language requirements outlined above or equivalent. There are several ways that you can provide evidence of your English Language ability, details are listed [here](#).

Students coming for less than 6 months

If you are coming to Lancaster for less than 6 months, we will still need to review your English Language ability. However, we can accept a wider range of certificates including qualifications listed [here](#) or confirmation from your home university.

If you have any further questions about this, you can email studyabroad@lancaster.ac.uk

You can study at Lancaster for:

- Michaelmas term (October - December)
- Lent term (January - March)
- Michaelmas & Lent term (October – March)

You are required to take 20 - 30 ECTS credits per term. Please note that 30 ECTS credits is a very high workload.

Modules available to Erasmus+ students

Although we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of information about modules, there may be some unavoidable changes. At the stage of the application, you are only completing a *provisional* study plan and it will only be confirmed when you arrive in Lancaster. We recommend

you to have a strong list of back-up options in case you need to make changes to your provisional study plan.

Please note that you can change your mind if you need to and switch modules during your first week at Lancaster.

PSYC401: Analysing and Interpreting Data 1

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

The aim of this course is to equip students with the understanding needed to apply a range of analytic techniques that are standard in professional practice in psychological research. The course will develop knowledge of a core set of analytic methods through a combination of lectures and practical workshops. Students will learn about the application of statistical tests in a variety of settings. This will promote the capacity to confidently identify the appropriate technique for analyzing data across a wide range of investigation types.

Outline Syllabus

- Investigating and visualising data
- Producing figures and graphics of data
- Analysing categories of data
- Analysing whether measures are related - correlation and regression
- Analysing whether measures are different - t-tests and ANOVAs
- Determining effect sizes and power for psychology studies

Educational Aims

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- Employ the powerful R statistical application for their own research
- Identify the data analysis approach that can be applied to test the extent to which evidence supports psychological theories
- Apply appropriate statistical tests (t-tests, ANOVA, multiple regression)

- Describe the findings from statistical tests effectively in text
- Write a journal-style short report of a data analysis
- Translate data analysis findings into scientific insights in the context of theoretical predictions

Assessment Proportions

- 50% Report (1,500 words)
- 50% 5 x short assignments (fortnightly)

PSYC402: Analysing and Interpreting Data 2

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Lent Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

The aim of this course is to equip students to conduct and present quantitative data analyses appropriately and effectively using advanced methods. The course will provide an understanding of the motives to conduct research reproducibly, of the factors that influence the effectiveness of data visualization, and of the modelling approaches that link observed outcomes in psychological studies to systematic and random sources of variation. Students will be introduced to popular, modern, data analysis techniques through a combination of lectures and practical workshops. These techniques will include, especially, modelling approaches such as (general) linear models and (generalized) linear mixed-effects models due to their power, flexibility and accuracy across the widest range of applications in psychological science.

Outline Syllabus

- Reproducibility in modern psychological science
- Effective data visualization for papers and presentations
- Linear and general linear models
- Extensions that take into account random variation among participants using linear mixed-effects models
- Continuous and binary outcomes in psychological measurement

Educational Aims

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- Employ the popular and powerful R statistical application for their own research
- Identify the data analysis approach that can be applied to test theoretical beliefs against evidence Explain analytic choices in the context of alternative approaches
- Discover the appropriate software tools to implement the approach required to analyze or visualize data in a specific context
- Apply (general) linear models and (generalized) linear mixed-effects models of psychological data Describe the findings from models effectively in text
- Produce eye-catching, insightful, data visualizations
- Criticize the findings from analyses reported in journal articles Write a journal-style short report of a data analysis
- Translate data analysis findings into scientific insights in the context of theoretical predictions

Assessment Proportions

- 50% Report (2,000 words)
- 50% 5 x online assignments (fortnightly)

PSYC403: Conducting and Presenting Psychological Research

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Michaelmas and Lent Terms Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

This module aims to develop a selection of the skills needed to conduct and present research in psychology. We engage in learning activities designed to promote skills essential to psychological research: reading original research reports effectively; gaining ethical approval for research plans; designing and using critical psychological research methods; and communicating findings, in written reports and in oral presentations.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative Content:

Core Skills

- How to read a psychology article How to write psychology essays at MSc level How to write reports in the psychological (American Psychological Association) Style
- How to choose a dissertation topic How to plan for ethical research
- How to apply for a PhD
- The reproducibility of psychological research
- The archiving of research data for an open science
- The effective visual presentation of research findings
- The effective oral presentation of research

Specialized Psychological Research Methods

- Understanding Observational methods
- Understanding meta-analyses
- Understanding Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
- Understanding computational modelling
- Programming for computer-based data collection

Educational Aims

After taking this module students should be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with a wide range of the research methods used in contemporary Psychology.
- Develop the capacity to effectively implement a selection of research methods.
- Evaluate the utility of applying specific methods to psychological investigations in a range of subject areas.
- Discuss the theoretical assumptions underlying the use of specific techniques.
- Apply the analysis steps required to extract insights from observations, including quantitative and qualitative approaches, across different research methods.
- Follow APA (American Psychological Association) conventions to present research reports according to professional standards.
- Develop ethics proposals for psychological study designs, consistent with good research practice.

Assessment Proportions

- 88% Coursework Assessments
- 12% Presentation

PSYC404: Independent Literature Review

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners
- Please confirm suitability with Department

Module Description

This module aims to develop an in-depth knowledge of a specific area of psychological research, where the emphasis is on comprehensive literature search skills, synthesis of evidence across a set of studies, and evaluation of the evidence base with respect to a defined research question.

Educational Aims

Learning outcomes

- Consolidation of skills in use of electronic and other forms of library resource to identify published work bearing on a specific research question.
- Gain knowledge of the scientific and contextual factors that may affect the relation between the psychological phenomena being studied and the published literature, as well as techniques for mitigating such factors.
- Ability to organise material appropriately to gain an overview of results from a body of studies.
- Appreciation of the factors which may give rise to differing results in a set of related studies. Ability to evaluate the overview gained from a body of studies, both in terms of factors which may account for differences in findings, as well as issues of differing quality of data.

Assessment Proportions

- 100% Literature Review (4,000 words)

PSYC481: Psychological Aspects of Advertising

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

The module will examine the key cognitive psychological factors that impact on advertising success, with a particular focus on the roles of perception, attention, memory, language and reasoning. These factors will be addressed from both a developmental perspective and through a detailed consideration of contemporary research on adult cognition. The module will also consider a variety of methodological issues associated with the study of child and adult cognition in advertising, marketing and broader decision making contexts.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative Content:

- Evaluation of robustness and reproducibility of empirical findings
- Non-conscious effects on choice selection
- Embodied Cognition in decision making and advertising
- Children and advertising
- Implicit memory and product placement
- Using norm-based interventions to influence behaviour
- Misinformation and its correction
- Thinking about climate change communication

Educational Aims

After taking this module students should be able to:

- Describe the psychological factors impacting on advertising effectiveness, including the role of perception, attention, language, memory and reasoning.
- Describe core issues and theories in the psychology of advertising from both a developmental and adult perspective.
- Critically evaluate research, theories and evidence in the psychological study of advertising.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of research methods that are deployed in studying the psychology of advertising.
- Integrate a wide range of evidence and knowledge in interpreting the success or failure of advertising and marketing approaches.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of experimental research methods in studying psychological processes in general and the psychology of advertising in particular.
- Communicate views and opinions in both writing and discussions and support these views and opinions with empirical evidence.
- Write critical and analytical reviews of research.

Assessment Proportions

- 50% Report (2,000 words)
- 50% Essay (2,000 words)

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners
- Must have relevant background in Psychology of Advertising – please consult Department

Module Description

The module will critically examine the key constructs in advertising theory and research, with a particular focus on topics relating to advertising strategy and positioning, marketing communications, branding and approaches to increasing brand awareness, persuasive advertising, and the social and cultural aspects of advertising.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative content

- Brands and Branding – origins, concept, meaning, equity, positioning, attributes
- Advertising Theories – history, origins, uses, development, current theories - relevance, validity, reliability, politics
- Persuasion – argument, subconscious ‘seduction’, behavioural economics & behaviour and attitude change
- Advertising Strategy – links with business strategy, inception, design, triggers and boundaries - legislation, ethics, effectiveness
- The Advertising Process – the pitch, the brief, agency structure/responsibilities, the planning cycle, target audiences, measurement
- Media – traditional (print, outdoor, tv, film, PR) vs. new (digital, social, guerrilla...), product placement, programme/sport/event sponsorship
- Advertising Analysis and Deconstruction – semiotics, meta-messaging, cultural context, media as message, styles, music
- Special Audiences and Ethics – children, political, religious, vulnerable
- Creativity – managing, inspiring, generating – problem-solving vs. idea generation techniques... vs. ‘art’

Educational Aims

After taking this module students should be able to:

- Describe and explain key theories relating to marketing communications, brand promotion and advertising.
- Show a critical awareness of cultural and ethical issues relating to marketing and advertising.

- Critically evaluate theories and models relating to advertising, marketing communications and brand promotion.
- Select, apply and synthesise the theoretical concepts discussed in the module in analysing current advertising campaigns.
- Demonstrate skills in writing critical analyses of theoretical concepts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to synthesise ideas and arguments into a structured narrative.
- Show skills in communicating their views and opinions in tutor-led discussions.

Assessment Proportions

- 70% Essay (2,000 words)
- 30% Critical Analysis, including short presentation in class

PSYC483 Practical Advertising Research and Planning

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Lent Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners
- Must have relevant background in Psychology of Advertising – please consult Department

Module Description

In this module students will work as teams and will collaborate in addressing real research questions relating to advertising and marketing, either using case-study briefings or on behalf of commercial clients. In this way the module will provide students with an opportunity to experience and learn about the process of conducting and managing an advertising research project throughout all of its key stages.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative content

- The module will require students to conduct a collaborative advertising project embodying three key elements (scope may vary, depending on client brief):
- The first consists of focused practical work - market analysis and primary market research around a given 'marketing problem', in order to derive an advertising strategy - pursued by groups of students working together as a research team.

- The second element involves working up strategy elements into candidate themes that can be tested in further consumer research in which each team's emerging ideas, plans and strategies are developed further, ranked and refined against 'real' motives and needs.
- Finally, the 'new execution(s)' are delivered, underpinned by their relevant strategy, in a short presentation to peers and the module tutors.

Educational Aims

After taking this module students should be able to:

- Conduct and manage an advertising project throughout all of its key stages.
- Demonstrate skills in quantitative and qualitative research methods by addressing research questions as part of a real-world advertising project.
- Show advanced knowledge of advertising research practice.
- Demonstrate awareness of the ethical dimensions of real-world research (e.g. in relation to vulnerable audiences; sensitive markets; regulation/codes of conduct; collecting and using behavioural data).
- Communicate core aspects of a research project in the form of a team presentation.
- Demonstrate a critically aware and reflective understanding of the practical complexities of real-world research. Show general skills in conducting and managing team-based, commercially-oriented project work in an efficient, effective and ethically-sensitive manner.
- Communicate views and opinions in both writing and discussions and support these views and opinions with well-reasoned arguments.

Assessment Proportions

- 60% Commercial Report (3,000 words)
- 10% Reflective Report (1,500 words)
- 30% Team Presentation (1 hour)

PSYC505: Developmental Psychology

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Michaelmas Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

This module aims to provide students with an understanding of developmental psychology research, methods and theories at the postgraduate level. Its main focus is on the problem of understanding the nature of development, both in conceptual terms and in the conduct of research and practice involving children. The module examines a range of historic and contemporary accounts of developmental change, and introduces students to some key contemporary methods. The module also considers applications of developmental psychology to real world questions which inform practitioners and policy makers.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative content

- Introduction and Theories of Development: Revisiting old and new theories
- Understanding Children: Why developmental psychology is different from other types of psychology
- Methods: Measuring Development, Eye Tracking, EEG/ERP, Experimental Measures
- Topics: Hot Topic Debate, Health and Cognitive Development, Literacy, Development Beyond Childhood

Educational Aims

After taking this module students should be able to:

- Have an appreciation of what can be learned from studying human development within a scientific framework.
- Understand and discuss different accounts of human development, and how they might be distinguished.
- Be able to apply psychological theories of development to educational and social policy issues.
- Understand and discuss the specific research approaches that are designed to assess developmental change.
- Have an understanding of model of developmental change.
- Think critically about a range of controversial issues within developmental psychology.

Assessment Proportions

- 100% Coursework (2 x 2,000 word essays)

PSYC515: Developmental Disorders

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Lent Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

The aims of this module are to:

- Examine a range of developmental disorders across the lifespan and, through description and analysis, consider the cognitive and behavioural profiles across the clinical continuum.
- Consider various means of assessing the development of atypical populations.
- Foster the ability to synthesise and integrate concepts across specific disorders and atypical profiles. Consider the appropriate level of explanation and methodological approach for understanding atypical cognitive development.
- To this end, and where possible, each example will be considered along the clinical continuum of early detection, diagnosis and therapeutic intervention. By means of reviewing key, up-to-date publications, students will be exposed to the most recent theories and methodologies that bear upon this continuum.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative content

- Introduction to developmental disorders: what are they?
- Autism
- Reading disorders
- Developmental language disorder
- Approaches to studying and analysing developmental disorders
- Down Syndrome

Educational Aims

- Have an appreciation of what can be learned from studying populations with an atypical course of development.
- Understand and discuss different accounts of the origins and nature of developmental disorders, and how they might be distinguished.
- Be able to apply psychological theories of typical development to special populations.
- Understand and discuss the specific research approaches that are designed to assess developmental disorders.
- Think critically about a range of controversial issues within developmental psychopathology.

Assessment Proportions

- 100% Coursework (2 x 1,500 word essays)

PSYC601: Social Psychology

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Lent Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

Module aims and objectives:

- To provide students with an understanding of a range of contemporary theories and debates in social psychology.
- To provide students with an understanding of key methods, and debates, concerning core social psychological constructs.
- To provide students with an understanding of the ways in which social psychological theory, findings, and methods can be applied to contemporary social problems.
- To enable students to appreciate relationships between research methods, constructs and theories.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative content

- This module involves a combination of structured self-directed learning, class discussions, and lectures.
- Lectures will provide students with information concerning developing approaches and recent research on topics such as: Immoral Behaviour; Religious Prosociality; Decision Making; Implicit Attitudes; Intergroup Contact

Educational Aims

After taking this module students should be able to:

- Critically evaluate social psychological theory and research, with a view to questions of methodological adequacy, theoretical integrity, and the quality and quantity of empirical evidence.

- Demonstrate a familiarity with a range of theoretical perspectives adopted towards social psychological phenomena.
- Demonstrate familiarity with critical debates concerning social psychological theory and constructs.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the ways in which social psychology can be applied to social problems, and of various considerations which may impact upon the social utility of social psychological research.

Assessment Proportions

- 100% Coursework Critical Review (2,500 words)

PSYC604: Analysing Talk and Text

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Lent Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description

The primary aim of this module are really quite simple, it is to ensure that you are able to conduct qualitative research in Psychology at a postgraduate level. In order to do this I will take you through the various stages of conducting qualitative research, introduce you to some of the range of qualitative analytic methods available, and to their underlying assumptions and epistemologies. The module has a strong practical orientation; the two assessments are designed to support you in planning and conducting a piece of qualitative research. For that qualitative research project, you can research *any* psychological topic of interest to you. The only challenge is to do it in a manner consistent with the qualitative approach you are adopting. Consequently, the module offers you insight into new ways of conducting psychological research and the opportunity to take new perspectives on familiar topics.

Outline Syllabus

Indicative content

- Introducing qualitative approaches and asking qualitative research questions
- Sampling, ethics and transcription
- Conducting interviews and focus groups
- Coding and using NVivo qualitative analysis software

- Content Analysis
- Conversation Analysis
- Discursive Psychology and Discourse Analysis
- Thematic Analysis and Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)
- Writing and evaluating qualitative research

Educational Aims

After taking this module students should be able to plan, conduct and write up a piece of independent qualitative research. That includes:

- Formulating qualitative research questions
- Collecting, and where appropriate transcribing, qualitative data in a manner consistent with appropriate ethical and methodological standards.
- Critically evaluating the appropriateness of various analytic methods to the research aims, research questions and types of data.
- Adopting and applying one or more qualitative analytic methods.
- Using qualitative analysis software, e.g., NVivo, where appropriate.
- Presenting a qualitative analysis in a manner consistent with the epistemology underlying the analytic method and the evaluative criteria for qualitative research.
- Demonstrating reflexivity in the conducting of qualitative research.

Assessment Proportions

- 40% Research Proposal (1,500 words)
- 60% Analytic Report (2,500 words)

DHR.407a: Mental Health: Theory, Research and Practice

ECTS Credits: 10

Term taught: Lent Term Only

Pre-requisites:

- Must have completed an undergraduate programme in Psychology and enrolled in a postgraduate programme in Psychology
- This module is only available to Postgraduate Erasmus+ students from selected partners

Module Description:

This module will provide an overview of current research, theory and practice in adult mental health, with an emphasis on psychosocial models and interventions for mental health problems (such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and psychosis). Teaching will include lectures and seminars.

Outline Syllabus:

1. Concepts of mental health theory and research – for example: Models of mental health disorders Translational research in mental health – why is this important? Continuum models of mental health Transdiagnostic processes across psychological disorders Service user involvement in mental health research
2. Psychosocial interventions – for example: Psychosocial approaches to treating mental health problems Randomised controlled trials as a method of evaluating psychosocial interventions Self-management interventions for mental health Family approaches to treating mental health problems
3. Mental health disorders: Evidence-based theory, research and practice – for example mood and anxiety disorders, psychosis.
4. Current issues in mental health – for example national mental health policy (e.g. IAPT) and government priorities for change, recovery and mental health

Outline Syllabus

The aims of this module are to:

- Provide you with an advanced knowledge and understanding of: The main research methods used in evidence-based mental health research and practice
- Translational research in mental health
- Mental health disorders, including the leading theories and models of these disorders Service user and relative perspectives on living with mental health difficulties
- Evidence-based psychosocial interventions for mental health disorders
- Current policy and practice in mental health care.
- Critique of the research literature on mental health, including different theories/models and types of psychosocial interventions.
- Provide you with increased skills in: Searching for relevant literature on theory and research. Critical evaluation and reflection on published research (case studies, pilot studies, randomised controlled trials and other research studies). Communication in various forms, including group discussion and feedback (face-to-face and online discussions) and the written word.

Assessment Proportions

- 75% Coursework (2,500 words)
- 25% Presentation